

<http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/prevention/states/nv.html>

## Newsroom

### The Affordable Care Act's Prevention and Public Health Fund in Your State: Nevada

The Affordable Care Act creates a new **Prevention and Public Health Fund** to assist state and community efforts to prevent illness and promote health, so that all Americans can lead longer, more productive lives. The Fund represents an unprecedented investment – \$15 billion over 10 years – that will help prevent disease, detect it early, and manage conditions before they become severe. By concentrating on the causes of chronic disease, the Affordable Care Act helps move the nation from a focus on sickness and disease to one based on wellness and prevention.

#### *The Cost of Chronic Disease & the Need for Prevention*

Chronic diseases – such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes – are responsible for 7 of 10 deaths among Americans each year and account for 75% of the nation's health spending. Often related to economic, social, and physical factors, too many people engage in behaviors – such as tobacco use, poor diet, physical inactivity, and alcohol abuse – that lead to poor health and contribute to chronic disease.

The burden of chronic disease presents a significant public health challenge to Nevada:

- Over 1.1 million cases of seven common chronic diseases — cancers, diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, stroke, mental disorders, and pulmonary conditions — were reported in Nevada in 2003.
- The cost of treating those with chronic disease in Nevada totaled about \$1.9 billion.
- Chronic diseases resulted in \$7.5 billion in lost productivity and economic costs to Nevada.

A new focus on prevention will offer Nevada and the rest of our nation the opportunity to not only improve the health of Americans, but also control health care spending. A report from Trust for America's Health entitled *Prevention for a Healthier America* concluded that investing \$10 per person per year in proven community-based programs that increase physical activity, improve nutrition, and prevent smoking and other tobacco use could save the country more than \$16 billion annually within 5 years.

#### *How the Fund Improves Wellness and Prevention for Nevadans*

Since enactment of the [Affordable Care Act](#) on March 23, 2010, the Department of Health and Human Services has awarded approximately \$5.34 million in grants to organizations in Nevada through the Prevention and Public Health Fund to help improve wellness and prevention efforts, including:

**Community and Clinical Prevention (\$3,939,000):** This funding supports prevention activities that have been shown to be effective in reducing health care costs and promoting health and wellness.

- *Communities Putting Prevention to Work (\$3,800,000).* Supports federal, state and community initiatives to address tobacco control, obesity prevention, HIV-related health disparities, and better nutrition and physical activity.
- *HIV Prevention (\$76,000).* Focuses on HIV prevention in high risk populations and communities by increasing HIV testing opportunities, linking HIV-infected persons with appropriate services, and filling critical gaps in data and understanding of the HIV epidemic.
- *Tobacco Cessation (\$63,000).* Strengthens Nevada's ability to move towards implementing a plan to reduce tobacco use. It also enhances and expands the national network of tobacco cessation quitlines to significantly increase the number of tobacco users who quit each year.

**Public Health Infrastructure (\$290,000):** These grants strengthen state and local capacity to prepare health departments to meet 21st century public health challenges and support the training of existing and next generation public health professionals.

- *Public Health Infrastructure (\$200,000).* Supports state, local, and tribal public health infrastructure to improve information technology, workforce training, and policy development.
- *Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (\$90,000).* Builds state and local capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks.

**Primary Care Training (\$1,110,000):** These funds support the expansion of the primary care workforce.

- *State Health Care Workforce Development (\$150,000).* Helps Nevada strengthen its comprehensive health care workforce planning and/or implementation of such plans.
- *Primary Care Residency Expansion Program (\$960,000).* Increases the number of residents trained in family medicine, general internal medicine, and general pediatrics.

### ***Building on Other Initiatives that Promote Prevention***

The Obama Administration recognizes the complexity of our health needs and focuses on a broad approach to addressing the health and well-being of our communities. Other initiatives put forth by the Obama Administration to promote prevention include:

- The **President's Childhood Obesity Task Force** and the **First Lady's Let's Move! initiative** aimed at combating childhood obesity.
- The **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009** that provides \$1 billion for community-based initiatives, tobacco cessation activities, chronic disease reduction programs, and efforts to reduce healthcare-acquired infections.
- **The Affordable Care Act's National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council**, composed of senior government officials, charged with designing a National Prevention and Health Promotion Strategy.

*Resources:*

DeVol, R., and A. Bedroussian. An Unhealthy America: The Economic Burden of Chronic Disease, Milken Institute, October 2007. Available at: <http://www.chronicdiseaseimpact.com/>

Trust for America's Health. Prevention for a Healthier America: Investments in Disease Prevention Yield Significant Savings, Stronger Communities. July 2008. Available at: <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/prevention08/Prevention08.pdf>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Health Care Where You Live. December 2010. Available at: <http://www.healthcare.gov/center>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Laying the Foundation for Prevention. June 2010. Available at: [http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/aca\\_laying\\_the\\_foundation\\_for\\_prevention.html](http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/aca_laying_the_foundation_for_prevention.html)

***Posted: February 9, 2011***